National Awards for Excellence in Teaching

2012 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Recognise outstanding teaching at your institution by making a nomination for the 2012 National Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

www.nairtl.ie/awards
Awards overview

The National Academy is pleased to invite nominations for the 2012 National Awards Programme for Excellence in Teaching, honouring those who are both exemplary teachers and innovative researchers in Higher Education in Ireland.

Five awards of €5,000 each will be made in 2012. Nominations are invited in relation to individuals or groups of staff members. The awards recognise and celebrate teachers of undergraduate and postgraduate students who have demonstrated excellence and commitment in integrating their research with their teaching.

All levels or categories of staff (Professor, Senior Lecturer, Lecturer, Assistant Lecturer, full-time, part-time etc.) are eligible for the award. Nominations must be members of senior management within the university e.g. President, Registrar, Vice-President, Head of School or equivalent. Applicants should not self-nominate.

Subject to the approval of individual institutions, successful awardees may use the award for their professional and pedagogic development in learning and teaching, as well as for disseminating their good practice in teaching and learning.

Eligible Institutions

- All Hallows College
- Athlone Institute of Technology
- Carlow College
- Church of Ireland College of Education
- Coláiste Mhuire Marino
- Cork Institute of Technology
- Dublin City University
- Dublin Institute of Technology
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology
- Faoibh College of Education
- Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
- Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown
- Institute of Technology, Carlow
- Institute of Technology, Sligo
- Institute of Technology, Tallaght
- Institute of Technology, Tralee
- Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- Limerick Institute of Technology
- Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
- Mater Dei Institute of Education
- Milltown Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Dublin
- National College of Art and Design
- National College of Ireland
- National University of Ireland, Galway
- National University of Ireland, Maynooth
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- Shannon College of Hotel Management, Co. Clare
- St. Angela’s College, Sligo
- St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra
- St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth (Pontifical University)
- St. Patrick’s College, Thurles
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University of Dublin, Trinity College
- University of Limerick
- Waterford Institute of Technology

Selection Criteria

This scheme aims to recognise teachers who show a high level of impact and engagement in teaching and student learning. Applications should display evidence of sustained commitment to teaching excellence, supporting learning and an inspirational and/or influential scholarship within or beyond the institution. As a general guideline, criteria for assessment of applications may include:

- Approaches to teaching: Evidence of quality teaching with imaginative and stimulating approaches as follows: research-led: the curriculum is informed by the research interests of the teachers; research-oriented: the curriculum emphasises the processes by which knowledge is produced; research-based: the curriculum includes activities in which students actually conduct research, through projects and other course work; or research-informed: the curriculum is informed by systematic enquiry into the teaching and learning process itself.
- Student learning: Evidence of promoting and enhancing the student learning experience should be conveyed strongly as should contribution to the development of students’ critical thinking skills, analytical skills and scholarly values; evidence of teaching strategies that engage students in active and self-directed learning; use of teaching strategies which recognise and value a wide range of learning styles and promote student success.
- Assessment of learning: Innovation in assessment methodology: approaches to assessment and feedback that foster independent learning.
- Curriculum design: Effective and innovative design and delivery of courses: development of curricula and resources that reflect a command of the field.
- Collegiality: Evidence of supporting colleagues and influencing support for student learning through demonstrating impact and engagement; enthusiasm for and commitment to collegiality by influencing, stimulating and encouraging best practice amongst colleagues; membership of leading educational organisations.
- Sustained commitment: Commitment to ongoing professional development with regard to integration of research, teaching and learning; evidence of continued professional development and reflective approaches.

The selection committee is expected to include a nominated member from each of the following groups:

- Irish Universities Association
- Institutes of Technology Ireland
- NAIRTL International Advisory Board
- NAIRTL Management Board
- Union of Students of Ireland
- Previous NAIRTL Award Recipient

Nominations should prepare:

- Nomination form - one per application (1,000 words max). Testimonials should be on institutional headed paper and signed by the nominator.
- Two testimonials from peers (500 words max per testimonial). For team nominations, the two peer testimonials should relate to the entire team.
- CV from nominee (1,000 words max). For team nominations, one CV per team member is required.
- Written statement from nominee (1,000 words max). For team nominations, submit only one written statement per team.

Nominees should prepare:

- A written statement that includes a brief outline of the nominee’s teaching and research activities, and the reasons why the nominee should be considered for the award.
- A CV of up to 10 pages that outlines the nominee’s teaching and research activities.
- Two peer testimonials from colleagues that outline the nominee’s teaching and research activities.

Preparation of Nomination

Nominations should include:

- A written statement (1,000 words max) that outlines the nominee’s teaching and research activities.
- A CV of up to 10 pages that outlines the nominee’s teaching and research activities.
- Two peer testimonials from colleagues that outline the nominee’s teaching and research activities.

National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030, pg 59

Background

The National Academy promotes and supports excellence in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and learning. In 2008 the National Academy introduced an Awards Programme to honour exemplary teachers who are also innovative researchers in higher education in Ireland. The awards are intended to raise the profile of teaching and learning through recognition and celebration of teachers who make an outstanding impact on the student learning experience.

Teaching and research are both central to the role of academic staff, and excellence in teaching and in creative and scholarly work go hand in hand. The National Awards aim to acknowledge and reward academic staff who are successful in uniting these two roles.

• L-O: Thomas Farrel, RCSI, Jennifer Schewapp, UL, Aine Hyland, NAIRTL, Minister Ruairi Quinn, DES, Marion Palmer, IADT, John Hennessey, HEA, Frances McCormack, NUIG, and Kathleen Horgan, WIT.

*: The completed application should include:
- Nomination form (from website)
- Peer testimonials
- The nominee’s CV (or team members’ CVs)
- A written statement from the nominee or team
- Paper must be A4 and should be plain white
- Note the word and/or page limits for each nomination type
- Margins should be at least 2cm with clear paragraph definition
- Arial size 10 point is recommended
- Nominations must be single sided, corner stapled and unbound
- The complete application will not exceed 16 pages
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Assessment of Learning: Innovation in assessment methodology: approaches to assessment and feedback that foster independent learning.

Curticulum design: Effective and innovative design and delivery of courses; development of curricula and resources that reflect a command of the field.

Collegiality: Evidence of supporting colleagues and influencing support for student learning through demonstrating impact and engagement; enthusiasm for and commitment to collegiality by influencing, stimulating and encouraging best practice amongst colleagues; membership of leading educational organisations.

Sustained commitment: Commitment to ongoing professional development with regard to integration of research, teaching and learning; evidence of continued professional development and reflective approaches.

Challenge of diversity: Evidence of recognising, supporting and embracing diversity of learning needs in the student population.

These criteria are not exhaustive and should in no way limit applications for an award.

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Eligible Institutions

National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030, pg 59

Preparing a Nominaiton

Nominations forms and further information are available at www.nairtl.ie/awards

Nominations should be made by a member of senior management within the institution e.g. President, Registrar, Vice-President, Head of School, or equivalent.

Nominators should prepare:

- Nomination form - one per application (1,000 words max).
- Testimonials should be on institutional headed paper and signed by the nominator.
- Written statement from nominator (1,000 words max).
- For team nominations, submit only one written statement per team.

Up to three nominations are invited from each institution and these should be forwarded in the same envelope to NAIRTL by the person(s) responsible for co-ordinating the nominations.

Nominations should include:

- nomination form (from website)
- two peer testimonials
- the nominee’s CV (or team members’ CVs)
- CV from nominee (1,000 words max).
- For team nominations, submit only one written statement per team.

Nominees should prepare:

- Two testimonials from peers (500 words max per testimonial).
- Nomination form (from website)
- Written statement from nominee (1,000 words max). For team nominations, submit only one written statement per team.

Nomination Format

- The completed application should include:
  - nomination form (from website)
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- Previous NAIRTL Award Recipient

...the recognition of excellence in teaching should underpin strategy for the ongoing development of Higher Education.”

*LR: Thomas Farnell, RCSi, Jennifer Schwepp, UL, Aine Hyland, NAIRTL, Minister Ruiir Quinn, DES, Marion Palmer, IADT, John Hennessey, HEA, Frances McCormack, NUIG, and Kathleen Horgan, WIT.
## Awards Programme Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Request for Nominations</td>
<td>January 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nomination Submission Deadline</td>
<td>2nd April 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of Nominations</td>
<td>May 2012</td>
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<td>Notification</td>
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<td>Awards Ceremony</td>
<td>September 2012 (TBC)</td>
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Completed application forms should be posted to Jennifer Murphy, Project Manager, NAIRTL, at the address below.